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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOUTHERN REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

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THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORY was authorized by Congress in 1938 as one of four regional laboratories to develop new and extended outlets for farm crops. It is a unit of the Southern Utilization Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The brick, U-shaped building, located on a 40-acre tract of land donated by the City of New Orleans, was completed in 1941. It contains nearly 4 acres of floor space; houses offices, a library and service shops across the front, laboratories in one wing and pilot plant equipment in the other.

The CROPS STUDIED are cotton lint, rice, sweetpotatoes, sugarcane, cottonseed, peanuts, tung, and other oilseeds grown in the South. The Laboratory also is headquarters for six field stations investigating citrus fruit, cucumbers, tung fruit, sugarcane, and pine gum. The AGRICULTURAL AREA SERVED consists of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The SOUTHERN LABORATORY AND ITS FIELD STATIONS employ about 375 persons, representing about 75 colleges and universities in about 30 states. Two-thirds are scientists; the others comprise the administrative and service staff. About 30 research fellows sponsored by foreign countries or by industrial organizations in this country have trained at the Laboratory during the past 10 years.

DEVELOPMENTS at the Southern Laboratory, described in patents and in hundreds of published technical papers, include a new machine for opening and fluffing bales of cotton prior to cleaning for spinning at textile mills; a loom attachment for weaving naturally waterproof cotton fabrics; acetylated cotton highly resistant to mildew, rot, and heat; a "disappearing" cotton yarn that is strong enough to weave but dissolves in water; information demonstrating that dyed and printed fertilizer bags have re-use value in making wearing apparel; a cotton conforming bandage; a machine to cut short staple cotton and cotton wastes into a linter-like product; improved solvent methods for extracting southern oilseeds; cottonseed meal of improved nutritive value; information to aid peanut butter manufacturers; oil from rice bran, and starch from sweetpotatoes; plus many advances in the knowledge of chemistry, physics, and engineering.

RESEARCH AT FIELD STATIONS has contributed to successful commercialization of frozen citrus concentrates and fresh-pack cucumber pickles; and to improvements in pine gum processing that have modernized the naval stores industry.

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